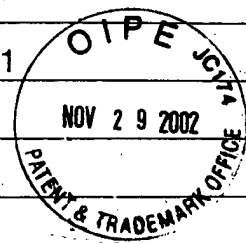




RCE/1754

<p align="center">REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</p> <p>Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995 See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).</p>	Application Number	09/840,878
	Filing Date	April 25, 2001
	First Named Inventor	IMAI et al
	Group Art Unit	1754
	Examiner Name	Johnson
	Attorney Docket Number	1417-348



This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

#18/ub
12/17/02

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114	
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously submitted	
i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on <u>October 3, 2002</u>	
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)	
ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____	
iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed	12/02/2002 JADD01 00000056 09840878
i. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	01 FC:1801 740.00 DP
ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)	
iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)	
iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
2. Miscellaneous	
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 35 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(l) required)	
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.	
a. <input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 14-1140	
i. <input type="checkbox"/> RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)	
ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)	
iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check in the amount of \$740.00 _____ enclosed	
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card (For PTO-2038 enclosed)	

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (Print Type)	Arthur R. Crawford	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	25,327
Signature		Date	November 29, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:			
Name (Print Type)			
Signature		Date	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.